Chief Ministers' Committee for Decentralised Foodgrains Procurement Policy

1213. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether concerned over sharp differences with the States over Decentralised Foodgrains Procurement (DFP) the Central Government have constituted a Chief Ministers' Committee to evolve a mechanism for bringing down mounting subsidy bill on account of handling foodstocks;

(b) if so, whether Governments' proposal for DFP to prevent wastage and cut subsidy bill was rejected by the State Governments;

(c) whether the Committee has submitted its report;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) by when recommendation of the Committee would be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) to (e) Pursuant to the Chief Ministers Conference held on 21.5.2001, a Standing Committee of Union Ministers and Chief Ministers on Food Management and Agriculture Exports was constituted. The Standing Committee, in its first meeting held on 6.7.2001, discussed the issue of decentralized procurement. The States of Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Kerala, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, J and K, Bihar, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Gujarat and Assam expressed their inability to adopt the scheme of decentralised procurement due to various reasons such as lack of funds, infrastructure, trained manpower etc. The States of Karnataka, Goa, Himachal Pradesh and Chhattisgarh felt that the scheme could be adopted after suitable modalities are worked out.

It was clarified in the meeting of the Standing Committee that the scheme would not be imposed on any State Government.

Further consultations would be held with the State. Governments and sharing of gains under the scheme will be considered with those States which agree to adopt the scheme.

Maize procurement in Karnataka

1214. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of maize procured and stored so far in various godowns of the Food Corporation of India in Karnataka;

(b) whether the Food Corporation of India has paid the farmers for procurement of maize;

(c) if so, the amount so far paid to the farmers;

(d) whether the State Government has requested to lift the maize stored in various godowns as it was not advisable to store it for long; and

(e) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken to lift the stock of maize stored in godowns?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) As on 31.3.2001, a quantity of 3.79 lakh MTs of maize was procured in Karnataka by the Food Corporation of India (FCI) and the Karnataka State Food and Civil Supplies Corporation (KFCSC), a sub-agent of FCI.

(b) Yes, Sir. The FCI has made full payments to the farmers to the extent of procurement made by FCI. The FCI has also made payment for the stocks procured and passed on the Karnataka State Food and Civil Supplies Corporation to FCI upto 28.2.2001.

(c) A total amount of Rs. 109.07 crores has been paid to the farmers. Out of this, Rs. 56.42 crores has been paid by FCI and Rs. 52.65 crores has been paid by KFCSC.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. Entire stocks have been sold to the willing